

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193390

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, GR, TU, US

SUBJECT:GREEK DCM CALLS ON DEP.ASST. SEC LAINGEN RE
SISMIK DISCUSSIONS

1. GREEK DCM COUNDOURIOTIS CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY LAINGEN AUGUST 2 ON INSTRUCTIONS TO PRESENT
GREEK VERSION OF RECENT GREEK/TURKISH SISMIK I DISCUSSIONS
IN ANKARA. PRESENTATION CLOSELY PARALLELED AND ADDED LITTLE
TO "NON-PAPER" SUPPLIED TO EMBASSY, TEXT OF WHICH WAS PRO-
VIDED IN ATHENS 7694.

2. AT END OF PRESENTATION, COUNDOURIOTIS RELATED FOUR
POINTS WHICH HE STATED HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO RELAY TO US
GOVERNMENT:

-- A) IT IS HIS GOVERNMENT'S IMPRESSION THAT CAGLAYANGIL'S
INITIAL FLEXIBILITY IN THE TALKS HAD BEEN TORPEDOED ON
ORDERS FROM ABOVE. COUNDOURIOTIS SAID THIS ACCOUNTED FOR
HIS DEPARTURE FROM ANKARA DURING THE WEEKEND OF JULY 25-26,
A PERIOD WHEN HE HAD PROMISED TO REMAIN IN TOWN TO HELP
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WORK OUT A FORMULA.

-- B) THE GREEK SIDE FELT IT WAS FULLY WITHIN ITS RIGHTS
TO REQUEST THE PROGRAM AND ITINERARY OF THE SISMIC MISSION.

TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY, THE GREEKS HAD ASKED ONLY FOR THE
ITINERARY AND THEN ONLY ALONG GENERAL LINES. GREEK
ACCEPTANCE OF THE OVERALL FORMULA, HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE
BEEN CONTINGENT ON KNOWING WHERE THE SHIP WAS GOING.
MOREOVER, AGREEMENT TO SUCH A FORMULA WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN
FORTHCOMING IF TURKS HAD INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO
PENETRATE VERY FAR INTO CONTESTED AREA.

-- C) THE TURKISH SIDE HAS THE OBLIGATION UNDER THE
1958 CONTINENTAL SHELF CONVENTION TO REPORT FINDINGS OF
ITS RESEARCH. THE GREEK SIDE DID NOT PRESS FOR THIS.

-- D) THE GREEK SIDE HAS THE RIGHT TO CARRY OUT DISCREET
SURVEILLANCE AND THEY HAD NO INTENTION TO SEEK TURKEY'S
APPROVAL FOR SUCH ACTIVITY. RATHER THEY HAD INFORMED
TURKEY THEY INTENDED TO CARRY OUT DISCREET SURVEILLANCE
IN THE CASE OF SISMIC.

3. LAINGEN EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT ANKARA TALKS
WERE AT AN IMPASSE. OUR AMBASSADORS IN ANKARA AND ATHENS
HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED OVER THE WEEKEND TO REEMPHASIZE THE
IMPORTANCE OF RESTRAINT ON BOTH SIDES AND THE URGENT
NEED FOR RESUMPTION OF A GREEK/TURK DIALOGUE ON THE ISSUE.
LAINGEN SAID HE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE IN THE STRONGEST
POSSIBLE TERMS THE VIEW OF THE USG THAT OUR TWO ALLIES AND
FRIENDS MUST REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO AVOID A CON-
FRONTATION OVER THE SISMIC. SINCE THE TURKS HAD NOW
APPARENTLY MADE PUBLIC THE COORDINATES OF THE AREA WHERE
THE SISMIC WOULD OPERATE THROUGH AUGUST 20, THERE SHOULD
BE AVAILABLE BOTH THE TIME AND THE ELEMENTS OF AN UNDER-
STANDING WITHIN WHICH AN ARRANGEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH
ATHENS AND ANKARA COULD BE WORKED OUT.

4. LAINGEN RESISTED DISCUSSION OF THE RESPECTIVE LEGAL
POSITIONS OF GREECE AND TURKEY OTHER THAN TO MAKE THE
POINT THAT IT WAS BECAUSE LEGAL AMBIGUITIES EXISTED THAT
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WE ATTACHED SO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THE TWO SIDES FINDING
A WAY TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE ON A BILATERAL BASIS AND
WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THEIR RESPECTIVE LEGAL CLAIMS. HABIB

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